such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government. At a Conference of the Ministers incharge of Panchayati Raj held in July, 2001 at New Delhi, it was resolved that the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations would, by the end of March, 2002, devolve powers upon Panchayats in respect of 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule and issue executive instructions devolving specific powers upon each tier of Panchayats. The All India Panchayat Adhyakshas Sammelan held in April, 2002 at New Delhi also urged for speedy devolution of powers to Panchayats.

Water problem in Saurashtra-Kutch area of Gujarat

†3309. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that nearly 25000 villages in the Saurashtra-Kutch area of Gujarat are getting water through tankers;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the fact that crores of rupees are being spent on it every year;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to formulate any scheme to solve the serious problem of water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) As per information received from Government of Gujarat during the year 2000 and 2001, 2608 and 3117 villages respectively in Saurashtra-Kutch were supplied water through tankers. As on 15th April 2002, 770 villages are being provided water through tankers.

(b) As per the information received from Government of Gujarat during the year 2000 and 2001, Rs. 32.56 crore and Rs. 36.89 crore respectively were spent on mitigation of drinking water scarcity in Saurashtra-Kutch region. In the current year Rs. 3.49 crores have been spent so far for this purpose.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government of Gujarat has formulated a Master Plan to supply water drawn from Narmada river for drinking and industrial use to the population of 2.9 crore in 8215 villages and 135 urban centres of Saurashtra, Kutch, North

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Gujarat and Panchmahal area at an estimated cost of Rs. 7200 crore. A pipeline project costing Rs. 900 crore has already been completed as part of this project, benefiting 594 villages and 26 towns. The second pipeline project costing Rs. 617 crore for drinking water for the Mallya Branch canal for the districts of Kutch, Rajkot and Jamnagar city is under implementation. The third project for supply of Narmada canal water to Mehsana and Banaskantha districts through a Bulk Water pipeline costing Rs. 200 crore has also been formulated by the State Government. In addition, the Government of Gujarat has recently sanctioned 42 newly regional rural water supply schemes estimated to cost Rs. 343 crores. In order to bridge financial gap for these projects Rs. 20 crore were specially released for Kutch region under ARWSP by Government of India during March, 2002.

Blocks and districts in Jharkhand covered under EAS

3310. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the blocks and districts in Jharkhand State under Employment Assurance Schemes;

(b) the quantum of employment generated in these blocks/districts;

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the additional wage employment opportunities generated and creation of durable community assets for sustained employment and development in these districts of Jharkhand State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and remedial measures proposed/taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) The EAS is no longer in operation. The Scheme was a part of the SGRY during the year 2001-2002 and stands merged with the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana w.e.f. 1st April, 2002. The EAS was implemented in all the Districts and Blocks of Jharkhand State.

(b) During the year 2000-2001, about 100.3 lakh mandays under the EAS and during the 2001-2002 (upto October) about 56.2 lakh mandays under the SGRY (EAS) were created.

(c) to (e) During the year 2000-2001, against the total available funds of